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In Memoriam: Ronald R. Burke (1944-2002)

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In Memoriam: Ronald R. Burke (1944-2002)

Abstract

Founding Editor of the *Journal of Religion and Film* William Blizek reflects on the influence and legacy of the Ronald R. Burke.

It is with great sadness and a very heavy heart that I announce the death of my co-editor, Ronald R. Burke. Ron died April 5, 2002 after an extended battle with cancer. Those of you who knew Ron will share in my grief. Those who did not should know that religious studies has lost one of its shining lights.

There are many things to say about Ron, but I think that for readers of this journal it is important to know that the *Journal of Religion & Film* simply would not have been possible without Ron's contribution, both to the founding of the *Journal* and to the editing of the *Journal*. Ron's courage and imagination were essential to starting the *Journal*. His dedication and enthusiasm were essential to its continued success.

I would not have been able to found and edit the *Journal* by myself and I don't think I would have been able to found and edit the *Journal* through its formative years with anyone other than Ron. Ron was one of those rare individuals who did more than his fair share, delivered more than he promised and gave more credit to others than he took for himself.

As you might expect, he continued to work on the *Journal*, reading submissions and making suggestions for the future of the *Journal* up until the last couple weeks of his life. I will miss him terribly.